

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, as presently amended and in light of the following discussion, is respectfully requested.

After entry of the foregoing amendment, Claims 1-2, 5-6, 8-11, 13-17, and 19-20 are pending in the present application. Claims 3-4, 7, 12, and 18 have been canceled without prejudice, Claim 8 has been amended to address cosmetic matters of form, and Claims 1, 9 and 15 have been amended to incorporate the limitations of dependent Claims 3, 12 and 18, respectively. No new matter has been added.

In the outstanding Office Action, Claims 1-2 and 9-11 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated under Boerstler et al. (US 6384649); Claims 15 and 17 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Geannopoulos et al. (US 6075832); and Claims 3-8, 12-14, 16 and 18-20 stand objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but are indicated as allowable if rewritten in independent form.

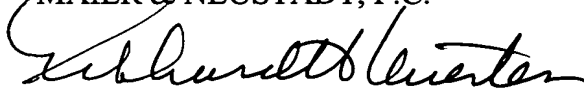
Applicants thank the Examiner for the indication of allowable subject matter. In light of this indication, Claims 1, 9 and 15 have been amended. In particular, independent Claims 1, 9 and 15 correspond to original dependent Claims 3, 12 and 18, respectively, rewritten in independent form. As such, all outstanding rejections are rendered moot.

If the Examiner believes that any additional formal matters need to be addressed in order to place this Application in condition for allowance, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned by telephone at the Examiner's convenience.

Consequently, in light of the above discussion and in view of the present amendment, the present application is believed to be in condition for formal allowance and an early and favorable action to that effect is requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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